Appln. No.: 09/475,881
Response to O.A. of Oct. 27, 2003

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-8 are pending, Claims 1 and 5 are independent. Claims 1 and 5 are hereby amended. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Barns-Slavin, U.S. Patent No. 5,995,950 (hereinafter Barns-Slavin) in view of U.S. published application US2002/0174030A1 (hereinafter Praisner).

Independent Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"[a] set of load planning tables for use in a system for managing shipping parcels, the set of load planning tables comprising...

b) a load table, for storing records of attributes associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field and a load identifier field;

c) a stop table, for storing records of attributes associated with a stop, which is in turn associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field, a load identifier field, a stop identifier field, and a drop bill number field;

d) a shipment header table, for storing records of attributes associated with a shipment, which is in turn optionally associated with a stop, which is in turn associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field, a load identifier field, a bill number field that serves as a shipment identifier and optionally relates the record to a record in the stop table via the drop bill number field in records of the stop table, an origin identifier field, and a destination identifier field; and

e) a cost table, for storing records of attributes associated with a component cost of a load, which is in turn associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field, a load identifier field, a field indicating a cost type, and a field indicating a cost amount,

wherein the set of load planning tables applies business rules to a consignee party, a shipper party and to a third party, such that a route priority table is used to determine a time of arrival, a party responsible for payment and a destination location and applies the business rules to events and subevents to determine delivery parameters."

Barns-Slavin relates to carrier management system having the capability to compute discounted shipping charges. The carrier management system includes inputs for input of parcel weight, information for selecting a class of carrier service, a parcel identification number and operator input signals. A data processor responds to a first operator input signal to append a suffix to the parcel identification number and store the parcel information, and for succeeding parcels increments the suffix and stores the parcel information. Upon input of a second operator input signal th data processor

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Page 5 of 7

PAGE 8/10 * RCVD AT 1/8/2004 4:35:01 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/6 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:203 924 3919 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-40

Appln. No.: 09/475,881
Respons to O.A. of Oct. 27, 2003

det rmines th discounted shipping rat for the group of parcels. The data processor also compares the discounted and non-discounted costs and in response to other operator input signals adds or deletes parcels in the group.

As understood by Applicants, Praisner relates to dynamic payment cards and related dynamic payment card management systems. The dynamic payment cards can be traditional payment cards with card control settings that are dynamically managed. In addition, a dynamic card management system can automatically interface with card processor systems to dynamically modify these card control settings, and a purchasing management system or other request and approval workflow engine can provide an interface between a company and the dynamic card management system. Dynamic approval parameters can be generated and/or managed through the application of configurable company purchasing policies and rules, and these dynamic approval parameters can be stored, for example, by a processing system that makes authorization determinations when transactions are initiated using the purchasing mechanisms.

Applicants submit that neither Barns-Slavin nor Praisner, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest a cost table, for storing records of attributes associated with a component cost of a load, which is in turn associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field, a load identifier field, a field indicating a cost type, and a field indicating a cost amount, wherein the set of load planning tables applies business rules to a consignee party, a shipper party and to a third party, such that a route priority table is used to determine a time of arrival, a party responsible for payment and a destination location and applies the business rules to events and subevents to determine delivery parameters, as recited in Claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that there is no motivation to combine Barns-Slavin with Praisner since Praisner relates to a payment card system. Applicants submit that the Examiner is making the combination based on impermissible hindsight. Therefore, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 1.

Independent Claim 5 is similar in scope to Claim 1, and the same arguments provided with respect to Claim 1 apply to Clam 5. Applicants submit that Claim 5 is allowable.

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Page 6 of 7
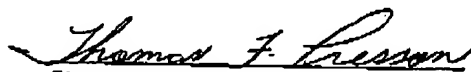
Appln. No.: 09/475,881
Response to O.A. of Oct. 27, 2003

The other claims in this application are each dep ndent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' attorney may be reached by telephone at (203) 924-3845. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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